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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1925.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HAVERFORD-
WEST RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,—I have the honour to submit my report for the year 1925.

NATIONAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

General Statistics.

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	163,473
Population	...	...	...	...	19,250

Rateable Value.

Land	...	...	...	...	£88,516.
Buildings	...	...	...	...	£35,110.
Sum represented by a 1d. rate	...	...	...	...	£283 9s. 11d.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE AREA.

The Rural District comprises the whole of the Haverfordwest Poor Law Union and Registration District, except the Municipal Boroughs of Haverfordwest, Milford Haven Urban District, Fishguard and Goodwick Urban Districts. The surface of the district is undulating, the land is well watered by numerous streams and rivers, but owing to the peaty nature of the streams, domestic supplies of water are obtained from wells. The northern part of the district consists of various rocks. Lower Silurian (sand stones, slates, and shale), Cambrian and altered Cambrian

rocks. The surface soil of the north is chiefly decomposed rock, and in the south reddish clay. Climate: Winter generally mild and summer moderate. The speaking language is Welsh. The majority of the inhabitants are agriculturists, but there are numbers employed at brickworks, and there is a small colliery at Hook and a large number of men are employed by the Great Western Railway in the Marine and Traffic Departments.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births:—	Males.	Females.	Birth rate per 1,000
Legitimate	177	169	18.75
Illegitimate	4	11	
Deaths:—			Death rate per 1,000.
	113	140	13.1

The average Birth and Death rate of England and Wales being 18.3 and 12.2 respectively.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN HAVERFORDWEST R.D...89.08.

All causes, 113 males, 140 females. Influenza, 4 males, 2 females; tuberculosis of respiratory system, 8 males, 18 females; other tuberculous diseases, 1 male; cancer, malignant disease, 10 males, 12 females; diabetes, 2 females; Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c., 5 males, 5 females; heart disease, 21 males, 23 females; arterio-sclerosis, 2 males, 4 females; bronchitis, 4 males, 9 females; pneumonia (all forms), 10 males, 8 females; other respiratory diseases, 3 males, 1 female; ulcer of stomach or duodenum, 1 male; diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years), 1 male, 1 female; appendicitis and typhlitis, 2 males, 1 female; cirrhosis of liver, 1 male; acute and chronic nephritis, 6 males, 5 females; other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition, 4 females; congenital debility and malformation, premature birth, 5 males, 7 females; other deaths from violence, 3 males, 2 females; other defined diseases, 24 males, 35 females; causes ill-defined or unknown, 2 males, 1 female.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diseases notified during the year:—

Smallpox.	Scarlet Fev.	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fev.	Puereral.	Erysipelas
Nil.	12.	17.	Nil.	1.	2.

There has been no serious outbreak of infectious disease during the year.

Prevalance of notifiable infectious diseases during period 1921—25.

S.P.	S.F.	D.	E.F.	P.	E.
1921	22	16	1	Nil.	4
1922	16	11	1	4	7
1923	6	11	1	4	3
1924	9	7	5	2	3
1925	12	17	Nil	1	2

No serious outbreak of infectious disease has occurred in the district during the last four years. In spite of the prevalence of small pox in various parts of the United Kingdom there is still opposition to vaccination by parents, but on the whole there are fewer exemptions claimed.

VACCINATIONS PERFORMED DURING THE YEAR.

Primary,
130.

Vaccinations,
3.

Diphtheria.—Swabs for bacteriological examination are taken in any doubtful cases. Anti-toxin is used for curative and prophylactic treatment. The serum has definitely proved to be the only means of prevention of the spread of this disease in small occupied cottages where isolation is impossible. Unfortunately in many instances sore throats are considered of too little consequence by members of the families and medical advice is too often delayed.

Tuberculosis.—This disease continues to be very prevalent in the district.

Cases notified during the year 1925:—Pulmonary, 40; non-pulmonary, 8.

There were 26 deaths of P.T., and one for other variety.

Death rate for all forms, 1.4 per 1,000.

It is to be regretted that there still exists the tendency to avoid hospital treatment, and rather to desire treatment at home under conditions which undoubtedly hinder proper treatment and it is proved by the relapse of many cases who are discharged from Sanatoria greatly improved, return to their home and live under far from ideal conditions.

The Tuberculosis Physician attends Clinics at regular intervals at the various centres in the district, and also visits the houses of all patients who are unable to attend.

The Scalyham Hospital was opened in 1922, having accommodation for 15 males and 15 female patients. This Institute has certainly proved its value for the treatment of advanced cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. At the same time it also receives cases of lesser severity, the main object being proper nursing and segregation of such infectious cases.

St. Bride's Hospital opened in June, 1923, and contains 123 beds, where the treatment of surgical tuberculosis in children is carried out.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE IN THE AREA

Tuberculosis. The Scalyham Hospital at St. Dogwells under King Edward VII. Welsh Memorial Association, having accommodation for 30 patients.

St. Bride's Hospital.—For treating surgical tuberculosis in children having accommodation for 130 patients.

The County Memorial Hospital at Haverfordwest having accommodation for about 40 patients for general medical and surgical cases.

Isolation Hospital.—A hospital for infectious diseases was opened this year at Pembroke Dock.

In this district where a large proportion of the houses are small it is impossible to isolate cases in their own homes.

No special accommodation is yet available for maternity cases requiring special treatment.

Sufferers from infectious diseases are now offered suitable accommodation and expert nursing and it is hoped that speedy isolation of the early cases will prevent any extensive outbreaks.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE DISTRICT.

There is one Medical Officer of Health for the district and two Sanitary Inspectors. The North Inspector (Mr. Phillips) supervises the Fishguard and St. David's districts. The South Inspector (Mr. Gibbon) supervises the Haverfordwest and Milford Haven divisions. Both hold certificates of the Sanitary Institute.

BACTERIOLOGICAL LABORATORY.

A Laboratory has been fitted up at the Public Health Offices at 23, Hill Street. The Laboratory is shared by the Tuberculosis Officer. It has been found useful for the examination of diphtheria swabs and the sputum of tuberculosis patients.

There is still some delay in notifying the proper authority of cases of tuberculosis which occur in this district.

A special weekly return has now to be submitted to the Tuberculosis Medical Officer.

This importance of early inspection is of special importance.

SANITATION.

Water Supplies.—The district generally is supplied from public and private wells. No new wells have been sunk; 12 wells provided with pumps have been sunk by private persons.

Improvements were carried out to supplies at Wolfscastle and Little Newcastle.

Rivers and Streams.—No serious pollution is reported to have occurred in the district.

Drainage and Sewage.—There is no system of sewage or scavenging in the South district. The removal of house refuse from the Marble Hall district of Steynton continues to be unsatisfactory. The removal of house refuse is carried out by the tenants of the houses. The refuse is tipped at the Mount Farm tipping ground. It is hoped that shortly some agreement will be arrived at and that the Council will adopt a system of collection here. Closets are chiefly of the pail type.

In the North district.—The system adopted at St. David's continues to be satisfactory, and in other parts of this district most houses have their refuse passed into cesspools or buried in the gardens.

SCHOOLS.

Sanitary conditions were generally satisfactory. The well at Camrose South School being open to pollution, received attention.

HOUSING 1925.

There continues to be a great shortage of sanitary dwellings. Five new houses have been built by the Council in the South district, and a few by private enterprise. Number of houses which were approved of for the subsidy of £75 amounted to four. Many of the older houses should be removed. Plans for the erection of twelve new houses were approved of by the Council in the north district. Overcrowding is not a serious factor in either districts. Several notices were served but repairs are difficult in most cases, and under existing conditions it is difficult for the Council to close these houses of an unfit type and as stated there are many in the south district.

1.—(1) Total number of houses inspected under P.H. and Housing Act.	176
(2) Number recorded	26
(3) Number of houses found in a dangerous state	5
(4) Number of houses not in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	33
2.—Remedy of defects with formal notices	10
Remedied by informal notices	17
3.—Action under Statutory Powers: Proceedings under Section 28 of H. and T.P. Act	Nil.
(1) Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil.
(2) Rendered fit by owners	Nil.
Rendered fit by local authority	Nil.
(3) Number of dwelling houses in which Closing Orders became operative	Nil.
4.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses where notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	32
(2) Number of defects remedied by owners	30
Number of defects remedied by local authority	Nil.
5.—Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of Housing and Town Planning Acts	Nil

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

	South Area.	North Area.
Wholesale	128	22
Retail	11	28

The majority of the farmers still do not show a high standard of construction or cleanliness, but certainly much improvement has occurred following notices given to comply with the regulations, the defects mostly found are those showing insufficient ventilation and insufficient drainage.

Retail milk sellers have shown much improvement in their methods and on the whole the milk is found to be of good quality. No case of tuberculosis has been reported.

MEAT INSPECTION AND SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

The meat is generally inspected at the slaughter houses. There are no public slaughter houses in the south district. Private ones are satisfactory. In the north area the number registered are 16.

Number of Slaughter Houses in the Districts:—

	1920.	Jan. 1925.	Dec. 1925.
Registered	13	30	31
Licenced	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
	—	—	—
Total	13	30	31

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

These were inspected and found satisfactory.

	North District.	South District.
Bakeries	7	4
Steam Laundry		1
Mineral Water		2
Brick Works		1
Engineering		1
Hay		1
Flour Mills	20	5
Joinery	15	4
Smithy	7	3
Boot Making		1
Wool	9	
Printing	1	

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

J. HOWARD OWEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

